

Table 1: DRAFT Streamflow Criteria

August Alteration	Flow Level	Percent of subbasins currently in each flow level*		% allowable alteration of unimpacted median flow			
		small subbasin scale	HUC-12 scale	AUG	OCT	JAN	APRIL
0 to 5%	1	56%	53%	< 5%	5%	5%	5%
5 to 15%	2	17%	19%	<15%	5%	5%	5%
15 to 35%	3	13%	16%	<35%	15%	15%	15%
35 to 65%	4a,b,c	6%	8%	Feasible mitigation and improvement			
65 to 100%	5a,b,c	8%	4%				

Narrative

1) Existing public water supplies with alteration levels higher than those shown on the chart will be required to maintain and where feasible improve their flow level.

*2) Major surface water supplies will be evaluated through a separate annual metric.

3) WMA permitting and backsliding rules will be strictest for those requesting an increase in system volume, and strictest in areas of high ecological value, including but not limited to Biological Categories 1 and 2, and coldwater fishery segments.

Table 2: DRAFT "no backsliding" Recommendations

Biological Category	Recommendations to prevent backsliding**	
	no movement down	stay within biological category & flow level or improve
1	X	
2		X
3		X
4		X
5		X

** Framework to move down a flow level will be established through a process that allocates water if it is needed for public health, safety, economic development, or other Water Management Act considerations.

This summary is offered for discussion purposes only and does not necessarily represent current statute, regulation, or policy positions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts unless specifically acknowledged. This summary is not to be cited as a reference. Its purpose is to foster open and broad discussion of the issues of sustainable water management as well as help assure public awareness of the discussions as of the date of the presentation.